

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE
Week ending the 30th April 1904.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 9th April has the following:—

PRATINIDHI,
April 9th, 1904.

The Corbett case.

As already announced by us, the name of Mr. Corbett was, through mistake, mentioned in connexion with the *Dolejatra* incident at Comilla. The Civil Surgeon was the actor in the drama and not Mr. Corbett. That such a disreputable act was without sufficient grounds ascribed to Mr. Corbett is greatly to be regretted.

2. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th April speaks of the

CHARU MIHIR,
April 19th, 1904.

Dacoity in Tangail.

frequency of dacoity in Northern Tangail in the Mymensingh district, a case having recently occurred in the house of one Ram Sundar Shaha in the Danhajani village under the Ghatail outpost, in which the dacoits carried away property to the value of Rs. 3,000. Detective police officers should be engaged to hunt out the *budmashes*, whose names it would not be very difficult to obtain. They should be compelled to furnish securities for good conduct.

3. Writing in the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 20th April, one Muhammad

PALLIVASI,
April 20th, 1904.

A friction between Hindus and Muhammadans in the Burdwan district.

Muchha Khan, village Kuluit, post-office Kusumgram, district Burdwan, says that Babu Binay Chandra Sinha, an influential *darputnidar* of the Bhojpur village under the Manteswar thana in the same district, has compelled the Musalmans of the village to have an *ekrarnama* registered to the effect that they will never kill a cow in that village. Only two Musalmans, Rahan Baksh and Talukdar, refused to sign the document. And they have now instituted a case in the Kalna law court on the ground that they are being subjected to various sorts of oppression by Binay Babu. The local police has been ordered to enquire into the case.

4. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st April, though glad at the promotion

JYOTI,
April 21st, 1904.

Mr. Stevens, District Superintendent of Police, Chittagong.

of Mr. Stevens, District Superintendent of Police, Chittagong, is sorry to part with him. Born of a respectable family, highly educated, and well connected, he could not enter the Indian Civil Service owing only to some physical disqualification. This must be regarded as a misfortune as much to the service itself as to him personally. During the short time that Mr. Stevens was here he gave evidence of that intellectual ability and large-heartedness the possession of which can alone make a man a worthy member of the Civil Service. Police officers say that in whatever district Mr. Stevens may be placed at the head of the police, there will surely be a marked diminution of crime.

5. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April writes that there is a class of

SOLTAN,
April 22nd, 1904.

Murders from religious considerations in East Bengal.

men, especially in the Backergunge, Noakhali, and Tippera districts, whose business it is to murder wealthy people. Raosan Ali Bhuiyan, of Noakhali, Umed Gazi Patwari, of Tippera, Umeruddin Chaudhuri, of Rangpur, and many others were murdered by members of that class. It is not easy to arrest these murderers. Those who are murdered are mostly tyrannical, and hated by all men for their depraved conduct. The murderers are actuated by religious motives.

6. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April reports

BANGAVASI,
April 23rd, 1904.

A case of dacoity in the Hooghly district.

a case of dacoity in the house of Kesabchandra Adhikari, an inhabitant of Bangram near Bhangamora in the Hooghly district, on the night of 24th March last. The dacoits forced their way into the house and carried away ornaments, gold bar, and cash amounting in all to about Rs. 517. At the time of the occurrence Kesab loudly called out to the village *chaukidar* by name, but could not find him, and when Kesab's neighbour, Giris Kali, went to the *chaukidar*'s house he could not find him there. Next morning the Sub-Inspector of Police came and took up the enquiry. Two other cases of attempted dacoity occurred—one in the house of Kartik Lal, of Bhakarpur village, and another in that of Sarada Charan Chatterji, of Bhangamora. A sense of insecurity prevails in this part of the district.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 9th, 1904.

7. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 24th April says that there has been a recrudescence of *budmashi* within the Manikganj subdivision of the Dacca district. When Mr. Philips was Magistrate of Dacca, the *budmashes* were effectively checked by him. But they have again raised their heads under Mr. Rankin. Recently they have educes the young wife of one Kailas Chandra De, of the Dasra village. The attention of Mr. Rankin is drawn to the matter.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
April 20th, 1904.

8. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 20th April says that Mr. Temple, the District Judge of Barisal, has recently issued a circular directing that in all cases in which decrees are granted in Small Cause Court suits, no revision will be granted unless the whole amount of the decree, together with costs, is previously deposited in the Court, and that applications for revision of rent cases will also be similarly rejected. In section 17 of Act IX of 1887 it is laid down that before a revision is granted, the party asking for it must either deposit the amount decreed or give sufficient security for it. Considering that the parties affected by Small Cause Court decrees are generally poor, almost all Courts in the Barisal district have hitherto required such parties to give securities to enable them to obtain a revision. It is impossible for most of them to deposit the amount decreed against them, and many persons take advantage of this fact and obtain decrees by unfair means. The District Judge has therefore done a great injustice to poor people by issuing the above circular. There is no provision in the law requiring that in rent suits the amount decreed should be deposited in the Court, or that sufficient security should be given, before a revision can be granted. How could the District Judge then issue such an order?

It is to be hoped that the High Court will take due notice of the matter.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
April 20th, 1904.

9. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapore] of the 20th April complains that great irregularity and oppression prevail in the realization of road-cess in the Midnapore district. In many cases the names of deceased co-sharers of joint mahals not being known, certificates are issued in the names of only such co-sharers as are living. Again, from among these latter a particular man is singled out from whom money may be realized easily, and repeated warrants are issued against him, thereby compelling him to pay the dues of all the remaining share-holders. Now, this procedure may not be illegal, yet it must be admitted that it is exceedingly oppressive. It is to be hoped that the District Collector will see that this obnoxious practice is put an end to.

JYOTI,
April 21st, 1904.

10. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st April writes that the Munsif of Fatikchhari has acted illegally and irregularly in a certain suit, the particulars of which are as follow. The decree-holder applied for execution of the decree upon the debtors, who stated that they had already paid their dues. The decree-holder then said that the Court nazir had misappropriated the money paid by the debtors. Upon this, the Munsif recorded evidence against Giris Babu, and taking the debtor to be a friend of Giris Babu, ordered the execution of the decree against him. Under the circumstances the nazir ought to have been prosecuted for misappropriation, and the order of execution of the decree upon the defendant should never have been passed. It is said that the whole affair is the result of a conspiracy to bring Giris Babu to trouble. The District Judge should make a sifting enquiry into the case, having previously removed Babu Kedar Nath Ray, the Munsif, and some of his friends from the place.

SANJIVANI,
April 21st, 1904.

11. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st April writes:— In one of his novels Bankim Chandra has described how very powerful a *sahab's chaprasi* are. The following is an instance. On the 20th February last, the *chaprasi* of Mr. Marr, Subdivisional Magistrate of Sirajganj in the Pabna district, was going to a place in the mufassal with the tents and other articles belonging to the Magistrate. After crossing a river in a boat, the *chaprasi* asked the ferrymen of the *ghat* to carry the articles from the boat, which the

men refused to do. There was an altercation, during which the *chaprasi* abused the men. This was followed by a fight. The *chaprasi* gave information to the thana, and 29 persons were at once arrested and challaned by the police and afterwards put into *hajat*. After rotting in *hajat* for 27 days the men were released, but the case against them is still pending.

12. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April takes Mr. Marr, the Subdivisional Officer of Sirajganj in the Pabna district, severely to task for refusing bail to a ferry *ghatwal* and some other men and detaining them in *hajat* for 27 days in a case which was the outcome of a petty quarrel between the accused and his own *chaprasi*. The attention of the Government is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI,
April 22nd, 1904.

13. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 24th April learns from the *Santi* [Madaripur] of the 12th idem that Babu Bijay Keshab Mitra, the third Munsif of Madaripur, behaves very badly towards pleaders and parties. Once a female complainant having refused to compromise a case, he told her pleader in open Court, "Tell her to compromise, or I shall teach her a good lesson." On another occasion he told a pleader, "Why do you believe what *Shaws*, *Surhis*, etc., say?" referring to a client of the pleader who belonged to the *Shaw* caste. The Munsif Babu taunts the people of the place with their use of a provincial dialect. He does not allow junior pleaders to cross-examine. Once he actually said in open Court, "I won't allow any junior to cross-examine." It is hoped that the High Court will consider the serious charges which have been brought against the Munsif Babu by the *Santi* newspaper and do the needful.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 24th, 1904.

14. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th April writes:—
The Indians have come to the conclusion, which is derived from experience, that in cases of collision between natives and Europeans justice is seldom done by the law courts. It is well known how Lord Curzon incurred the displeasure of the Anglo-Indian community by trying to do justice in such cases. In spite of all that His Excellency did, failure of justice occurs in most cases of this class. The real cause of such injustice is certainly the partiality of Englishmen for their countrymen, which is so powerful that many European judges are unable to preserve the purity of the courts of justice. As an illustration of this, the facts of a recent case in Dibrugarh may be mentioned. A horse belonging to one Dr. Patterson in a tea-garden having suddenly died, it was suspected that the dismissed *syce* had poisoned the animal. But as the chemical examination of the contents of its stomach failed to detect any trace of poison, the accused was let off. Not satisfied with this decision, the European complainant preferred an appeal, with the result that a retrial was ordered. A European doctor named Major Hall deposed that there was a poison called strychnia, which might cause death, but which might not be detected in the stomach. The police then came forward with another witness, who deposed that some one was loitering near the stable on the day on which the horse shewed symptoms of disease. So, on the strength of the evidence of these two witnesses, the accused was sent to jail for two years. Will the authorities call for the records of this case?

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 25th, 1904.

(d)—Education.

15. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 16th April says that the curriculum adopted in the primary schools of Bengal and Bihar is defective in two points. Firstly, there is no Urdu course and this is a great hardship to those boys whose vernacular is Urdu. Secondly, the text-books in Geography, being for the most part descriptive of Europe and containing very little information about India, severely tax the memory of Bengali youths. The best course to adopt in this connection would be to require that the Geographical Reader taught in each particular province of India should treat of the geography of that province alone.

AL PUNCH,
April 16th, 1904.

SANJIVANI,
April 21st, 1904.

16. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st April has the following :—

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu lately put a number of very important questions in the Bengal Council regarding the Education Department, but, unfortunately, failed to elicit any satisfactory answers from the Government.

Babu Bhupendra Nath drew Government's attention to the issue of the *Sanjivani* of the 17th December 1903, and asked Government to enquire and state "how far the Government's wishes as conveyed in its letters No. 2949L.S.-G., dated the 24th July 1895, and No. 516T.—G., dated the 30th June 1877, have been given effect to in the matter of the recruitment of Deputy Inspectors from among the Sub-Inspectors." The answer given to this question by Mr. Pedler, through the mouth of Mr. Earle, was that, "the orders of Government alluded to in this question have been strictly complied with," and that since 1897, 37 vacant Deputy Inspectorships have been filled up with 14 Sub-Inspectors, 19 teachers, and 4 clerks. The portion of the Government letter No. 2449L.S. G., relating to the filling up of Deputy Inspectorships from the ranks of Sub-Inspectors, runs as follows:—"Unless, however, these restrictions are generally modified, the choice of officers for Deputy Inspectorships will in future be limited to the Sub-Inspectors transferred to the Boards from Government service, and when in course of time that source of supply fails, to graduates who will never have served as Sub-Inspectors, and will necessarily be wanting in the special experience required to make an efficient Deputy Inspector." Does not this explicitly mean that it is not possible for a man to become an efficient Deputy Inspector unless he has previously served as a Sub-Inspector? How had Mr. Pedler the courage to say, after having recruited only 14 out of a total of 37 Deputy Inspectors from the ranks of Sub-Inspectors, that he had "strictly complied with the orders of Government"? And how was it that Sir Andrew Fraser and Mr. Earle both remained satisfied with this answer? Mr. Pedler also said that "experience in teaching is, moreover, a very valuable qualification for the post of Deputy Inspector," and that that was the reason why a majority of Deputy Inspectors were recruited from the ranks of teachers. That may be so, but the writer knows that many lower grade teachers were appointed Deputy Inspectors in supersession of the claims of Sub-Inspectors who had proficiency both in the teaching and in the inspecting line. Mr. Earle will see the truth if he asks Mr. Pedler for a list of such Sub-Inspectors. Mr. Pedler said that the names of 25 of the most deserving Sub-Inspectors had been, according to Government order No. 515T.—G., printed in the service list in Roman type. Very well, but why have the claims of these "most deserving officers" been repeatedly overlooked in favour of lower grade teachers and clerks? Will Mr. Earle kindly ask Mr. Pedler for an answer to this question?

In reply to Babu Bhupendra Nath's question whether there was any Government order limiting the pay of Sub-Inspectors to Rs. 100, Mr. Pedler caused it to be said that such an order was passed at the time of reorganising the Educational Service in 1897. But the writer has failed to find such an order in the reorganisation Resolution, and he will be glad if Babu Bhupendra Nath next asks for a copy of the order said to have been passed by the Government.

No answers were vouchsafed to Babu Bhupendra Nath's questions whether the setting of the maximum limit of Rs. 100 to the pay of Sub-Inspectors has not had the effect of blocking the promotion of all Sub-Inspectors whether appointed by the Government or by the District Boards, and whether it was not true, as stated in the *Sanjivani* of the 14th January 1904, that whilst teachers and clerks in the Educational Service received a promotion within $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 years, Sub-Inspectors were not so fortunate as to get a promotion even in 8 or 10 years. Does this reticence indicate that the Government is not prepared to take notice of the grievances of Sub-Inspectors? Will not Sir Andrew Fraser, a conscientious and religious man that he is, and his wise and noble Secretary, Mr. Earle, consider it a sin and an injustice to poor Sub-Inspectors not to take notice of their miserable condition? The writer has conclusively demonstrated in the columns of this paper that the stoppage of the

promotion of the Sub-Inspectors appointed by the Government has led to the blighting of the prospects of the Board-appointed Sub-Inspectors. Government's letter No. 516T.—G. says:—"In the event, however, of the number of Board Sub-Inspectors in the Subordinate Education Service falling below 25, promotion to it should be made from among the other Board Sub-Inspectors." Board Sub-Inspectors, as such, get no promotion or pension, and their whole prospect lay in the chance of getting one of the vacancies in the Education Department and gradually rising to Deputy Inspectorships. In 1897 there were 119 Government-appointed Sub-Inspectors under the Boards. Now there are 70. So there has been a diminution of 49 in their number during the past seven years. If the 37 Deputy Inspectors appointed during the same period were all recruited from the ranks of Sub-Inspectors, the number of Government Sub-Inspectors in the employ of the Boards would have fallen from 70 to 47, and in three years more the number would have fallen to 23 or 24, and after that Board-appointed Sub-Inspectors would have, one by one, had the chance of being included in the Education Service and of being gradually promoted to Deputy Inspectorships. It was this which led Babu Bhupendra Nath to say that the block to the promotion of Sub-Inspectors would be removed if Deputy Inspectors were principally recruited from the ranks of Sub-Inspectors. Mr. Pedler met Bhupendra Babu's statement by saying that it was not clear to him what it meant. The writer is sorry that Sir Andrew Fraser and Mr. Earle placed Mr. Pedler's replies before the Council without taking the trouble of enquiring if these replies were in strict accordance with the Government orders referred to above, and by doing so, they have only encouraged Mr. Pedler in the partiality and injustice he is committing. The reorganisation scheme of 1897 did not exclude Sub-Inspectors from its benefit, but Mr. Pedler has excluded them from his proposed scheme on the ground that they are "transferred officers"! But were not the Sub-Inspectors equally looked upon as "transferred officers" at the time of Sir Alfred Croft's scheme of 1897? They are now, as they were then, appointed by the Government and entitled to pension from the Government. They are under the Boards only in the sense that they draw their salaries from the Boards. Sir Alfred Croft gave them equal privileges, in the matter of promotion, with the officers of the department, but Mr. Pedler has completely deprived them of those privileges. The truth is that Mr. Pedler's treatment of Sub-Inspectors, whether in the matter of pay, promotion or prospects, has driven them to desperation, and in their grief they are turning Mr. Pedler's new vernacular scheme into ridicule and are showing no heart in their work. It is a matter of regret that Mr. Earle and the Lieutenant-Governor are both approving of Mr. Pedler's conduct towards the Sub-Inspectors. When Government appoints a Deputy or Sub-Deputy Magistrate as the manager of a private zamindari, such an officer is called a "seconded officer," and though he draws his pay from the zamindari, for the time being, he is not regarded as outside his grade in the service in the matter of promotion. Sub-Inspectors stand in a similar position with regard to their service. They draw their pay, it is true, from the Boards, but, on retirement, they will get their pension from the Government. Yet these officers have been excluded from promotion. And the Lieutenant-Governor has to give his sanction to such a scheme! The Sub-Inspectors themselves did not suspect, before Babu Bhupendra Nath's interpellation in the Council, that Mr. Pedler had so completely blighted their prospects. They now, however, see quite clearly with what sympathy they are being treated by the head of the Education Department. And the Education Department expects these discontented men to give effect to its new educational scheme!

The writer would like to know if the 25 Sub-Inspectors, whose names are printed in the service list in Roman type, and who, to all intents and purposes, are regarded as officers of the department, have also been excluded from the benefit of the proposed new scheme. It is hoped Babu Bhupendra Nath will put a question on the subject in the Council. If they have been excluded, has not Mr. Pedler, by such exclusion, violated the orders of Government contained in its letter No. 516T.—G.?

It is no doubt a very happy thing that Government is giving Muhammadans increased facilities for entering the inspecting line of the Education Service. But has it been right to give them appointments while blocking

their way to promotion? Bhupendra Babu drew Government's attention to the injustice, but Government will not listen to anything in time. It will come to its senses when, through the neglect of its discontented officers, the newly introduced education scheme will bear nothing but poisonous fruits.

Sub-Inspectors from all quarters are expressing their gratitude to the *Sanjivani* and to Babu Bhupendra Nath for their sympathy with them. Their impression is that their evil day dawned on the day Mr. Pedler took up the Directorship of Public Instruction. One Sub-Inspector pointed out to the writer that whilst in the course of the Budget debate in the Supreme Council, Mr. Pedler said:—"We also want more contented and better paid educational services" in the Bengal Council the same officer caused it to be said in reply to Babu Bhupendra Nath's interpellation that "it was not considered necessary to include in the scheme (of the reorganisation of the Subordinate Educational Service) any proposal for the improvement of the prospects of the transferred officers." The protector turned devourer!

Government's statement that proposals for improving the prospects of Board-appointed Sub-Inspectors will be laid before the District Boards has alarmed, instead of reassuring, the writer. The funds necessary for improving their prospects will certainly have to be placed at the Boards' disposal by the Government, and Government will certainly find the money by curtailing other necessary educational expenditure.

Babu Bhupendra Nath's question about the evil consequences of a hasty introduction of the new scheme elicited the reply that though it was not expected that teachers would all at once teach the new subjects well; nay, it was almost certain that they would teach them badly, yet the teaching would not be worse than the then existing entirely mechanical system of training the memory. Very plausible argument, no doubt, at first sight, but an argument which will not bear close scrutiny. A sweetmeat made purely of sugar, though it is not sweetmeat of a very high quality, will resist decomposition for a very long time, but a rich sweetmeat containing a large amount of rich material, say for instance *chhana* (a preparation from milk), will decompose in a day or two and will be uneatable on the least decomposition. An independent enquiry would have convinced Government that whilst under the old system boys were learning something, however small, they are learning absolutely nothing under the new system. The teachers themselves are at a loss to know how the various subjects are to be taught, and the teaching they impart is better imagined than described. One can, indeed, hardly contain one's laughter to hear the strangely contradictory replies Government makes at different times in reply to questions relating to the same subject. In the course of the Budget debate in the Bengal Council, the Lieutenant-Governor delivered himself with some ridicule in his tone, in reference to a statement made by Babu Bhupendra, of the following:—

"I am not perfectly certain here again whether the Hon'ble Member ought to be taken quite seriously because he informs us that the establishment of the (agricultural) College at Pusa is as nothing as compared with the proceeding at once to teach agriculture in schools. Now I am perfectly sure that the Hon'ble Member, if he takes the trouble to reflect for a moment, will admit that you cannot possibly teach agriculture in schools unless you have the teachers. It is not only that a man must know agriculture; it is that he must be able to teach agriculture."

Agriculture is only one branch of science, whilst the new system of vernacular education embraces every department of scientific knowledge. And teachers in the lower schools in this country, far from being able to teach all those branches of science, do not themselves possess any knowledge of them. It was for that reason that this paper, along with Babu Bhupendra Nath, insisted on the postponement of the introduction of the new system till competent teachers had been turned out. But reasoning is wasted on him who wants to carry his point by force.

It is a matter of regret that Government gave no satisfactory reply to Babu Bhupendra Nath's question regarding the advisability of introducing the middle school courses intact in high schools, but, rather, shuffled the question. The writer is firmly convinced that there is not the least necessity for teaching subjects like geometry, mensuration, science, the whole

of arithmetic, including *subhankari*, to little boys reading in the 5th, 6th, and 7th classes of a high school, and that if the teaching of English in those classes be discouraged, as Mr. Pedler would like to do, it will be impossible for high school boys to pass the University Entrance examination in English literature. That a strong agitation has not yet been set on foot against this part of Mr. Pedler's scheme is simply because the majority of schools in Calcutta are independent of the Government and have not adopted the Government scheme. It is to be hoped that Babu Bhupendra Nath will strongly agitate the question in the Bengal Council, and that the Indian Association and the British Indian Association will do the same out of it. That may bring the authorities to their senses.

In the reply relating to guru-training schools, it was stated that 91 Head Pandits had been engaged in those schools, but it was not stated how many of these Head Pandits were men who had passed the final examination of the training schools. It looks rather strange that Mr. Pedler could not gather this piece of information. So far as the writer's information goes, many guru-training schools are as yet without a Head Pandit, the teachers in *pathsalas* pay visits to these institutions once or twice a week for an hour or two each time, and no real work is done.

17. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 22nd April supports the new scheme of vernacular education on this, among other grounds, that the old system, which attached the highest importance to examinations and consequently encouraged cramming, left very little time for students to develop special aptitude for particular subjects.

EDUCATION
GAZETTE,
April 22nd, 1904.

18. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 25th April writes that the number of holidays enjoyed by the schools in the Dacca town during a year is so large that it cannot but interfere with the proper instruction of the boys.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 25th, 1904.

Too many holidays in the schools in Dacca town.
It will be found on enquiry that boys get very insufficient training from the schools and colleges in Dacca town. During the three months commencing from February boys make very little progress in their schools, and they forget everything during the long summer vacation. The number of days for which schools remain closed may surely be diminished by disallowing all unnecessary holidays. The Director of Public Instruction ordered that colleges should be closed for the summer vacation on the 29th April; but why should the private schools be closed on that date? All persons interested in the education of the boys in the schools in Dacca town should give the subject their earnest consideration.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

19. The *Pratinidih* [Comilla] of the 9th April draws the attention of the Government to the attempt which, it is said, is being made by the Subdivisional Officer of Brahmanbaria in the Tippera district to get himself elected as a member of the District Board in the place of Babu Kailas Chandra Datta, deceased. This is the first time that a Subdivisional Officer of Brahmanbaria has tried to be returned by the Local Board as its representative to the District Board, thereby laying the axe at the root of Local Self-Government.

PRATINIDIH,
April 9th, 1904.

20. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 12th April writes that Babu Basanta Kumar Bhaumik, Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Madaripur Charitable Hospital, acted most cruelly by refusing to admit a poor beggar woman suffering from cholera as an indoor patient, although requested by the Chairman of the Madaripur Municipality to do so. The patient arrived at the hospital *ghat* in a boat at 8 on the morning of the 6th March last, but being refused admission to the hospital, was brought back to a place called Churmundaria, where she died at 3 o'clock at night. It is to be hoped that the Civil Surgeon of Faridpur will take due notice of the irresponsible conduct of the Assistant Surgeon of Madaripur.

FARIDPUR HITASHINI,
April 12th, 1904.

HINDU RANJIKA,
April 13th, 1904.

21. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Boalia] of the 13th April speaks of the want of good drinking-water within the Rampur Boalia Municipality. The number of tanks which can be used for the purpose of bathing is also not more than three or four. There is a large tank, called Chaturbhuj Babu's tank, in Boalia. This tank supplies drinking-water to a large section of the population of the town. But it is soiled by all sorts of filth and nuisance. Four or five thousand people bathe in it every day. Cattle are washed in it. It is also used by washermen for washing clothes. The attention of the local Health Officer is drawn to the matter. The few good tanks that exist within the Municipality should be reserved for supplying drinking-water only.

PALLIVASI,
April 20th, 1904.

22. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 20th April speaks of the prevalence of severe scarcity of water within the Kalna subdivision of the Burdwan district. Every year cholera rages in the subdivision in March and April. The East Bengal pilgrims from the *mela*, which is held at Nadia in the month of *Magh*, next turn their steps towards Baghnaparha, where another *mela* is held. These pilgrims generally require about a month to complete their pilgrimage. Cholera breaks out among them and spreads throughout the surrounding country. And it is water-scarcity which generates this dire epidemic. In Kalna town the distress, though not so severe as in the mufassal, is still very great. In the mufassal it is simply indescribable. There are villages which contain only one tank each, and this tank is used by the villagers for almost every conceivable purpose, such as drinking, bathing, washing clothes, cooking, washing of cattle, etc. Government has not done well in depriving the District Board of five lakhs of rupees. No one will object to any improvement which may be made in the city of Calcutta, but why deprive the mufassal people of the means of carrying out a more needful object, viz., the removal of water-scarcity? A correspondent says that severe scarcity of water prevails in the Dainhat village, four miles from the Kalna town. There is not even one tank in the village the water of which can be used for drinking and bathing purposes. Respectable women have to go over two miles to draw water from the river. It really moves one to tears to see respectable Indian ladies, who are, by nature and habit, so delicate and modest, undertaking a comparatively long journey to get a supply of water.

MEDINI BANDHAB,
April 20th, 1904.

23. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapore] of the 20th April writes that there is very severe water-scarcity in the Midnapore district. The sufferings of the villagers from want of water are indeed harrowing. Large sums of money are spent every year in making roads and giving primary education, but little or no attention is paid to the matter of supplying drinking-water to the people. It is said that the District Board spends Rs. 5,000 annually for this purpose, but except a few wells by the roadside, no other trace can be found of this reputed expenditure.

BANGAVASI,
April 23rd, 1904.

24. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April writes as follows:—
The question of water-scarcity. We request our contemporaries and the influential men of the country to appeal to the Emperor in the matter of water-scarcity. Let them find out the best method of removing the chronic scarcity of water in the country and press upon the Government the necessity of adopting that method. It is scarcity of water which is chiefly responsible for the frequent recurrence of famine in India. The rich men of our country possess neither the means nor the disposition to supply the want, or the people would not have so long suffered from it. How is then the want to be supplied? Sir Andrew Fraser has said that Government will not move in the matter until the District Boards and the zamindars do so in earnest. But, O Lieutenant-Governor, tell us what will be the case if the District Boards and the zamindars be not ready to do anything in the matter? What will then be our condition? Have you enquired whether they are in a position to incur any large expenditure in water-supply? You are our ruler, you are our protector. We shall not let you go before you have saved us from water-scarcity. First you must make local enquiries as to the condition of water-supply in different places, and then if you are convinced that distress really prevails in any particular place, you

should enquire as to whether or no the District Boards and the local zamindars are rich enough or willing to spend money to remove it. If they are not, you must spend money for the purpose. Will crores of your subjects die of water-scarcity before your eyes? You will not be able to bear that sight. You will have to make arrangements for water-supply somehow or other. Do not therefore give up the matter. Tell us how much money is required for the purpose. We shall then be in a position to advise you as to how the necessary funds should be raised.

25. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 23rd April has received reports of severe water-scarcity from many places in the mufassal. Has Government no responsibility in this matter?

RATNAKAR,
April 23rd, 1904.

Water-scarcity in the Burdwan district.

26. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th April writes that while the authorities are trying to reduce the plague mortality, they take no account whatever of the number of deaths caused by the effects of water-scarcity. Cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery and many other deadly maladies are caused by impure water. These diseases have appeared in a virulent form in villages where all the water reservoirs have dried up. Why is it that Municipalities and District Boards cannot make satisfactory arrangements for the supply of drinking-water? There is not a single district but suffers from water-scarcity. What can be a more disgraceful state of things than this?

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 25th, 1904.

Water-scarcity in the mufassal.

27. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April writes that although European ladies in Government offices cannot be expected to be the best that could be appointed on the score of economy or efficiency, yet for some reason or other their number is not inconsiderable in the General Post Office, in the Bengal Secretariat Press, and many other offices. Mr. Allen, the Officiating Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, recently appointed a lady shorthand typist for the Municipal Office, and the applications of many Bengali youths who were educated and skilful shorthand typists were rejected. The reason for this appointment is difficult to understand, and it does not reflect much credit on Mr. Allen's sense of justice.

The appointment of a European lady as a shorthand typist in the Calcutta Municipal Office.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 23rd, 1904.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

28. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 20th April complains that there is no accommodation reserved for intermediate class passengers on the Rivers Steam Navigation Company's steamers plying between Barisal and Khulna, Patuakhali and other places. This causes great inconvenience to respectable native passengers, one of whom was lately obliged to travel third class on board the Company's steamer, although he had purchased an intermediate class through ticket from Calcutta to Barisal. The officers of the Company are all courteous, and willing to do all in their power to secure the comfort of the passengers. By reserving accommodation for intermediate class passengers on its steamers, the Company will surely be a gainer, while it will supply a keenly-felt want. It is to be hoped that the steamer authorities will no longer remain indifferent to the matter.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
April 20th, 1904.

A steamer complaint.

29. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 20th April complains that passengers coming to the Budge-Budge railway station from the other side of the Hooghly are greatly inconvenienced owing to the road from the ferry-ghat to the station being a very narrow *kutcha* road, which becomes dangerous especially in the rainy season. It is to be hoped that the railway authorities will remove the inconvenience.

PRATIJNA,
April 20th, 1904.

Inconvenience of passengers coming to the Budge-Budge railway station.

30. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April publishes the following railway complaints:—

HITAVADI,
April 22nd, 1904.

Railway complaints.

(1) A correspondent says that formerly when No. 8 down train on the East Indian Railway used to stop at the Kalipahari station the delivery of the local mail used to be made at 5-30 in the morning. But now it is made at 9-30 A.M., because the above train no longer stops at the station. Kalipahari is a large coal centre containing no less than 25 coal depôts. The detention of the mail referred to above causes great inconvenience.

nience and loss to the local coal-traders. Passengers for the Loop Line, the Bengal Provincial Railway Line, and the Naihati Junction station have also been greatly inconvenienced by the discontinuance of the old arrangement under which No. 8 down stopped at the Kalipahari station.

(2) A correspondent says that at 5-30 P.M. on the 17th April last, he went to the third-class ticket-room in the Howrah station on the East Indian Railway to buy some tickets. But it was not before 20 minutes had passed and a crowd had gathered before the room that the booking-clerk came forward to sell tickets. Are not tickets sold at all hours at the station?

BANGAVASI,
April 23rd, 1904.

31. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April complains that on the East Indian Railway it is frequently seen that more than ten persons are allowed to enter into one third or intermediate class compartment. Sometimes the number even rises to 18 or 20. The excellent rules about to be introduced on the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway should be introduced on all railways in India. It can easily be understood how trying it must be to the passengers to get themselves densely packed in railway compartments in this hot season. The railway authorities should attend to the comfort and convenience of the third and intermediate class passengers, from whom the bulk of the railway income is derived.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 23rd, 1904.

32. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd April writes that the cuttings on both sides of the railway line passing through the Bankura town should be filled up without delay, otherwise when water accumulates in them during the rains and begins to stagnate later on, they will be sure to spread malaria in the town. It is to be hoped that the District Magistrate and the Civil Surgeon will take notice of the matter.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
April 23rd, 1904.

33. The *Howrah Hitaiishi* [Howrah] of the 23rd April says that the rifle range at Lilua in the Howrah district divides the local marsh into two parts. But there is no culvert on the road which leads to the shooting platform. The lands which lie east and north of the road therefore receive no benefit from the Duncan Drain which was constructed at great expense for draining the marsh. On the other hand, one possessing lands west and north of the platform has to walk round a distance of three miles in order to reach them. The expense and loss of time which this involves are compelling the local cultivators to give up their leases of these lands, thereby bringing ruin on themselves and causing loss to their zamindars. Cannot the authorities have a number of culverts and bridges constructed on the road for facilitating drainage and traffic? Again, the fear of being struck by stray bullets will prevent the local cultivators from cultivating the fields. Who will compensate for the loss which will be caused by this? Alas! the poor native is always the sufferer.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 25th, 1904.

34. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th April writes that the parcels office of the East Indian Railway in Dalhousie Square having been abolished, the local traders have been put to great inconvenience. It is not known what may be the real cause of this abolition, as it is scarcely possible that the railway authorities would have caused such inconvenience to the public, as well as no inconsiderable loss to the Railway Company itself, merely because the owner of the office building, it is said, demanded an exorbitant rent for it. It is to be hoped that the Agent will remove the public inconvenience by re-establishing the parcels office.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 25th, 1904.

35. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 25th April says that the Assam-Bengal Railway Company has acted wisely by reducing the fare from Comilla to Akhaura. It is expected that there will be a general reduction of fares all over the line at no distant date. The

Suggestions for the consideration of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company.

Railway Company is very anxious to have its income increased, but forgets that that result cannot be attained without paying attention to the comfort and convenience of the passengers. The passengers have to undergo the greatest hardships at the Luxam Junction. The number of through carriages should be increased, and separate hostels for Hindus and Muhammadans opened at the Luxam Junction. There is no convenient waiting-room at any

of the large and important stations, such as Chandpur, Luxam, Sitakund, and Akhaura. There is now no difference between third and intermediate class carriages. If the intermediate carriages are improved, more passengers will travel in them. Return tickets should be more largely issued. If the attention of the railway authorities be directed to the above and the inconveniences pointed out are removed, the income of the Railway Company will surely increase.

(h)—General.

36. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 9th April writes that Maulvi Ajhar, Deputy Magistrate of Comilla, makes himself extremely unpopular with his subordinates by his harsh and sometimes insulting behaviour. He has effectually dispelled the notion which was always entertained that a Maulvi hakim must always be civil and courteous to his subordinates. His strange and unaccountable conduct in the Treasury office on the last day for the payment of revenue and his treatment of the poddar and the accountant have attracted the notice of the Collector. The news of his transfer to Balasore comes as a great relief to the clerks and peons who had the misfortune to work under him.

Maulvi Ajhar, Deputy Magistrate of Comilla.

PATINIDHI,
April 9th, 1904.

37. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 20th April says that the clerks attached to the sadar and mufassal offices under the Executive Engineer of the Nadia Rivers Division are worked like beasts from 10-30 A.M. to 8 or 9 P.M. This state of things has been brought about by the fact that although the work of the offices has immensely increased, the number of hands has not been increased proportionately. The offices were kept open during the last *Muharram* and Good Friday holidays. What with the eagerness of *Bara Babus* to please the *Bara Sahebs* and what with the anxiety of the latter to please the Government, the health of the poor clerks is ruined by such hard and incessant labour. The attention of Mr. Arnot, the Executive Engineer of the division, is drawn to the hard lot of these overworked employes.

Office clerks overworked in the Nadia Rivers Division.

MURSHIDABAD,
HITAISHI,
April 20th, 1904.

38. Sir William Ward, late Chief Commissioner of Assam, says the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th April, had, and still has, very great partiality for the European tea-planters. Whether he is a owner of Assam tea shares is not known to us. He it was who in 1896 proposed the transfer of the Chittagong Division, together with the Dacca and Memensingh districts, to Assam. That Lord Curzon and Sir William should cordially agree with each other on this question and support each other's views is not at all strange. In making this proposal Sir William Ward had two objects in view, viz., the advancement of the interests of the tea-planters and the creation of some more appointments for civilians. But Lord Elgin's Government rejected his proposal, and Sir Henry Cotton also strongly objected to it.

Sir William Ward on the transfer question.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
April 20th, 1904.

Regarding the agitation on the transfer question, Sir William has not omitted to express, what he considers to be, his valuable opinions. He says:—

"I am only too familiar with the methods employed by the Mymensingh Association to rouse the ignorant and indifferent cultivator. I always feel so sorry for the cultivator, who has to pay for what he does not understand."

What a feeling heart does Sir William possess! It seems as if he has given up food and sleep in his anxiety for the Indian peasant. In his opinion the Mymensingh Association did a very criminal act by explaining to the people the inconveniences they would have to suffer if East Bengal were transferred to Assam. Is it after all so very objectionable to give warning to the unwary or to inform the people of the intentions of the present Government? Even Lord Macaulay was no advocate of this wicked policy of keeping the people in ignorance and darkness.

SANJIVANI,
April 21st, 1904.

39. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st April writes that although the opinion which the Bengal Government has expressed to the Government of India regarding the

The transfer question.

transfer question is not yet known, the Lieutenant-Governor has not probably confessed to a sense of inability to govern Bengal. The Bengal Government has not hesitated to declare that it was for the benefit of Assam and not for that of Bengal, that the proposal to transfer East Bengal to Assam was made.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 25th, 1904.

40. Referring to Sir William Ward's views on the partition question, the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 25th April makes the following observations in English :—

Sir William Ward on the transfer question.

Sir William as an Anglo-Indian officer saturated with bureaucratic ideas could not restrain himself from casting a fling at the agitation and the agitators. "I am only too familiar with the methods employed by the Mymensingh Association to rouse the ignorant and indifferent cultivators. I always feel sorry for the cultivator who has to pay for what he does not understand. Organisation I can appreciate, but if based on misrepresentation it is mischievous; if the misrepresentation is wilful, not due to ignorance, it is pitiable."

Sir William has said nothing new. He has, however, made some very bold assumptions which almost amount to misstatements. We are not aware if he ever served in any regulation province. Some idea of his complete code of laws and regulations may be gathered from the fact that he had, by a stroke of his pen, done away with the Land-Registration Act, Revenue Sale-Law, Resumption Law, Partition Law and embodied them within the compass of some 160 sections, apparently on the principle that brevity is the soul of wit. His Regulation No. 1 of 1888 raised a storm of protest in Sylhet, but he carried the day as the Government always does. This precious piece of legislation is supplemented by what are called executive rules, which are changed almost as soon as they are promulgated. Who told Sir William that Sylhet did not want to be represented in the Legislative Council? He may not be aware that while he was enjoying the bracing climate of Europe, the people of Assam, during the Viceroy's visit in the Assam Valley, actually memorialised His Excellency for a seat in the Viceroy's Council, and the Viceroy while refusing it, contended that none could be found in Assam qualified enough to represent the entire interests of Assam. This is indeed a sad commentary on the vaunted educational progress of Assam, including Sylhet. Dacca has never been in want of competent men to represent her on the Council. But it is useless to try to convince those who are determined not to be convinced.

SANJIVANI,
April 21st, 1904.

41. As an illustration of the intensity of feeling of the common people on the partition question the following incident, writes the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st April,

The transfer question.

may be mentioned. During the last *Chait Sankranti* festival a comic scene was acted at Dacca, in which the god Narada was represented as asking Mahadeo (who was seated on Mount Kailas surrounded by the gods and discussing the transfer question) how it was that the goddess Dhakeswari was going to be placed under the goddess of Kamakhya. It is well known that only the common people take part in the *Chait Sankranti* festival. The above incident therefore shews how powerfully the uneducated classes have been moved by the transfer question, and proves the worthless character of Lord Curzon's remark that the masses were indifferent, and that the agitation was confined to the educated few.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
April 20th, 1904.

42. The *Barisal Hitaiishi* [Barisal] of the 20th April writes that the last year's report on the settlement operations in the Barisal district contains the statement that the people regard the settlement work with favour, that

The settlement operations in the Barisal district.

disputes are very few, and that the people of those parts in which the settlement work has not yet commenced are eagerly awaiting the time when it will be taken up.

That this picture is grossly overdrawn is certain. The heavy expenses will ere long severely tell upon zamindars and landholders. Disputes there will be without number. Even now many persons who have been deprived of their just rights find themselves obliged to take to expensive litigation in order to recover

what they have lost. Whatever Government determines to do, it will do, all opposition and the people's opinion or feelings to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. Bell is no doubt making great exertions to cut down unnecessary expenditure and to conduct the business as smoothly as possible. For this people are grateful to him. But it is not a fact that the settlement work has pleased them.

43. A correspondent writes to the *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April contradicting the statement published in the *Hitavadi* newspaper (see Report on Native Papers of

SOLTAN,
April 22nd, 1904.

A contradiction.

the 16th April 1904, paragraph 46) against the Commissioner of the Sundarbans. Mr. D. Sunder, the Commissioner, deserves praise for the good judgment and patience he has displayed in conducting the survey and resettlement work. It is the zamindars who cruelly tyrannize over the raiyats and rob them of all their substance. The attack in the *Hitavadi* must have been inspired by some zamindar whose exactions had been checked. Nobody ever heard of the *sahab's* men using the word *sala*. No one has been threatened with the forfeiture of his lands. But there are some rapacious landlords who deserve such punishment.

44. A correspondent of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 23rd April complains that the postal peon of the Panuria post-office in the Burdwan district is very irregular in making delivery

RATNAKAR,
April 23rd, 1904.

A postal complaint.

of letters and in clearing the letter-box. The postal authorities should sanction the issue of money-orders by this post-office and thereby remove the inconvenience of the villagers.

III.—LEGISLATION.

45. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th April says that the cooly law in force in Assam is unworthy of the civilized British Government. The coolies are ignorant and

The cooly law in Assam.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 26th, 1904.

illiterate. It is a heartless policy to register the names of such unfortunate people as coolies and send them to Assam. How many persons are there who would willingly leave their native village and go to Assam on such small pay? Government has therefore indirectly introduced slavery in British India with the help of this cooly law.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

46. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 16th April is sorry that the Hindus and the Musalmans of Motihari should have been set at

A cow-killing quarrel in Motihari.

variance by the slaughter of a cow during the *Bakr Id* in village Sarai in Muhsi, Motihari. So at a time when every step is being taken to forget all such things in the past, there occurs this fresh case and thereby revives the bitter memory of the past.

AL PUNCH,
April 16th, 1904.

47. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 19th April has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 19th, 1904.

The inutility of severe criticism of public men and measures.

We are condemned by some persons because we do not severely criticise the doings of Government. But we find no reason to change our views in this matter. We should always bear one thing in mind, namely, that India is not England and that the British Government and the Government of India are quite different things. In England the people possess the supreme power and the Sovereign cannot, pay dare not, do anything against the wishes of the people. Now, just think of India. Who is our Sovereign? One should, of course, say King Edward VII is our Emperor. But in practice is that true? In administering the affairs of this country His Majesty is obliged to act according to the wishes of the English people and to look to their welfare and their interest. Moreover, although His Majesty is the Emperor of India, yet it would be no exaggeration to say that he has no power to do anything for India's good that might go against the interests of the people of England. We should always remember this fact. The Government of India has to do everything with an eye to English interests. When there is no conflict of interests between England and India, the Government of India may, if it likes, do us some good. Under such circumstances, no useful purpose can be served by severely criticising Government's actions. If therefore you have anything to ask for, do so in graceful language. Never

imitate the newspapers of England as to the language in which you make your demands. Criticise Government humbly and in temperate and sweet language. If you are disappointed in your prayer, don't be sorry, for you are, after all, a beggar. If the beggar succeeds in getting alms he is no doubt fortunate; if he does not, he ought not to abuse the householder for his ill-luck.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
April 22nd, 1904.

48. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 22nd April gives the following reason for the estrangement of feeling between the District Judge and the District Magistrate of Rangpur:—

The District Judge and the District Magistrate of Rangpur.

The District Judge, Mr. Ray, had the impression that he was the highest Government official at Rangpur and, as such, was entitled to read the Royal Proclamation at the Durbar meeting held at Rangpur on the occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty the King-Emperor. Mr. Ray wanted to demonstrate his superiority over Mr. Mitter, the District Magistrate, by exercising the privilege of reading the Proclamation and telegraphed to Government for the necessary permission. But Government did not think it right to grant the unreasonable request of Mr. Ray, and Mr. Mitter occupied the highest seat in the Durbar hall. This incident greatly irritated Mr. Ray. Failing in his attempt to show to the public, and especially to the people of Rangpur town where he had passed his boyhood, that he was a higher Government officer than Mr. Mitter, Mr. Ray thought that he had been humiliated and was therefore very much displeased with the Magistrate. This displeasure gradually became more and more developed till it caused an irreparable breach between the two officers.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 25th, 1904.

49. In a speech delivered by him in the Legislative Council of Madras, says the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 25th April, Lord Ampthill said that he would faithfully

follow the policy of Lord Curzon. Letting alone his other statesmanlike qualities, His Excellency is an eloquent speaker. So we see that the eloquent Lord Ampthill is come to officiate for the eloquent Lord Curzon.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 25th, 1904.

50. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th April has the following:—

The Christian missionary, the precursor of war and annexation.

To whatever country the missionary goes in order to preach the Gospel, there he treats the natives to coarse and abusive language. He speaks disrespectfully of their forefathers, their gods, and their manners and customs, and thus gives them mortal offence. If they do not accept his ludicrous religious tenets, they are regarded as an extremely uncivilised and uneducated people. The Christian missionary is shortly followed by his co-religionists, who by brute force bring that uncivilised people under subjection.

There is no sin which the Christians hesitate to commit, but any sin, if committed by others, is regarded as very serious. In the case of a foreign country the Christian missionaries first begin the quarrel by abusing the natives, then soldiers make their appearance and deluge the land with blood. Thus do the uncivilised people come into light out of darkness. It was the missionaries who were at the root of the massacre of the Christians in China, and it is these worthy people who abuse the Hindus and Muhammadans in India.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
April 14th, 1904.

51. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 14th April says that clouds are visible in the sky but there is no rain. The

The weather.

Utkaldipika [Cuttack] of the 16th April states that the temperature is rising and that there is no rain.

SAMVAD VAHIKA

Cholera and small-pox in the Balasore district.

52. The same paper states that cholera and small-pox are prevalent in different parts of the Balasore district.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

53. Referring to the earthquake of the 22nd March last, the same paper says that the shock was so slight that very few could perceive it, some thinking that a railway carriage was in motion.

The recent earthquake.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

54. A correspondent of the same paper regrets to notice the death of Babu Urdhab Charan Pruthal, a good and well-known zamindar of Remuna in Balasore, who led

The death of a Uriya zamindar.

a quiet and unostentatious life and was useful to his friends and neighbours in various ways. He spent a good sum in religious and charitable deeds, excavating several tanks, and repairing several temples.

55. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 16th April states that a fire broke out in the Talcher *gurb* which consumed many houses, inflicting a heavy loss of property on several shopkeepers.

Fire in Talcher.

GARJATBASINI,
April 16th, 1904.

56. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 16th April states that the mango crop is short in the three districts of Orissa, though a good crop is expected in the Orissa Garjats.

The ensuing mango crop in Orissa.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 16th, 1904.

57. The same paper complains that the Munsif of Balasore holds day office in this season, an arrangement which proves very inconvenient to the suitors and the general public.

The Balasore Munsif.

UTKALDIPIKA.

58. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper states that incendiarism prevails in that subdivision of the Cuttack district, and that want of rain has added to the difficulties of the people.

Incendiarism in Jajpur.

UTKALDIPIKA.

59. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper notes a few isolated cases of plague in that subdivision of the Cuttack district imported from Calcutta. The plague-stricken are said to have all died.

Plague in Jajpur.

UTKALDIPIKA.

60. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 16th April states that it has received reports to the effect that Mr. Teunon, the District and Sessions Judge of Cuttack, betrays rudeness and bad temper in his dealings with the pleaders. He does not notify beforehand the date when he will take up any particular case and, as a consequence, the pleader or the party whom he represents is not found ready. The Judge further declines to shew the records to the pleader when the latter wishes to draw his attention to anything particular about them.

The District Judge of Cuttack.

UTKALDIPIKA.

61. The same paper suggests that as six or seven imported cases of plague have ended fatally in the Jajpur subdivision of the Cuttack district, an additional doctor ought to be sent to that subdivision with a view to prevent a further spread of the disease.

Plague in Jajpur.

UTKALDIPIKA.

62. The same paper regrets to learn that Government aid has been withdrawn from the Bhograe-Purusotampur and Sahabandar Middle Schools in the northern part of the Balasore district and that, as a consequence, the schools are about to be closed. The writer observes that it will not help the cause of education to see so many schools abolished in one part of the district, and that if the efficiency of the schools in question is not up to the standard, attempts may be made to improve their condition or to replace them by fresh schools in the neighbourhood.

Government aid withdrawn from two schools in the Balasore district.

UTKALDIPIKA.

63. The same paper thanks Sir Andrew Fraser for the promulgation of the just order by which jurors and assessors, coming from distant places to help the District Magistrate or the District Judge in the trial of criminal cases, will be granted travelling allowances. The writer is of opinion that the rate of allowance will not cover the expenses of those assessors or jurors who reside in the interior of the district and who incur conveyance charges in their attempt to attend the district head-quarters.

The remuneration of jurors and assessors.

UTKALDIPIKA.

64. In reviewing the Bengal Budget Estimate, the same paper regrets that Government wants to withdraw the annual grant of five lakhs, which it made to District Boards for the improvement of roads and ferries in the past two years. This loss can hardly be made up by a grant of two lakhs, which Government proposes to make to those District Boards for the construction of feeder roads wherever they are wanted.

The grant to District Boards.

UTKALDIPIKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

65. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 12th April testifies to the unimpeachable honesty of Nabin Babu, the Jailor in charge of the Silchar Jail. But a warder and a *khilibardar* under

The Silchar Jail.

SILCHAR,
April 12th, 1904.

him are said to be very corrupt. They oppress prisoners with a view to extort bribes from their relatives. They also give to prisoners food left by their relatives. Perhaps the unofficial visitors of the jail cannot, for want of time, visit it properly. The authorities are requested to appoint Babu Joy Kumar Deb as one of its visitors.

SILCHAR.

66. A correspondent named Rasaraj Chaudhuri writes in the same paper

A case of police oppression. that at about 10 A.M., on the 23rd March last, he arrived at Fichuganj in the Sylhet district and was resting himself in a local hotel when the writer-constable of the local outpost arrested him, apparently on the ground that he knew a little English. The police searched his person, but found nothing which could arouse any suspicion against him. Besides this, he was certified by a local gentleman named Babu Nava Kishor Chaudhuri as being a respectable man. After 10 P.M. he was taken to the local post-office by the jamadar of the outpost and there, at the request of Babu Madan Chandra Das, the clerk attached to the post-office, who knew him, he was released. It was then 11 P.M., and he had not yet taken his meal. The fact is that on that day the local police received a telegram ordering it to arrest a man named Manmatha Nath Biswas, of black colour, possessing a little knowledge of English, and having with him a pair of black boots and some currency notes. And Rasaraj Babu was accordingly arrested and mercilessly detained for the reason that he knew a little English.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 30th April, 1904.